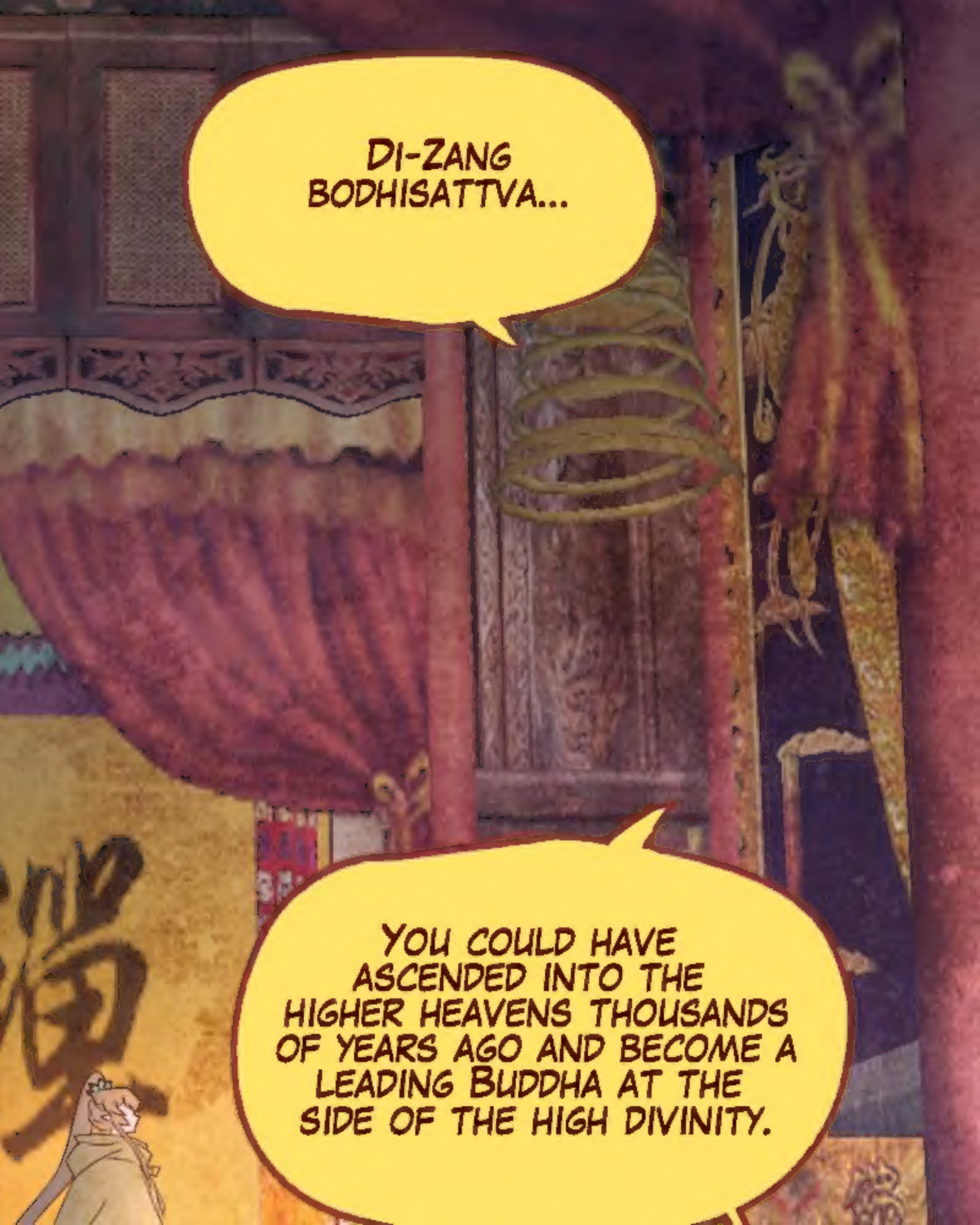
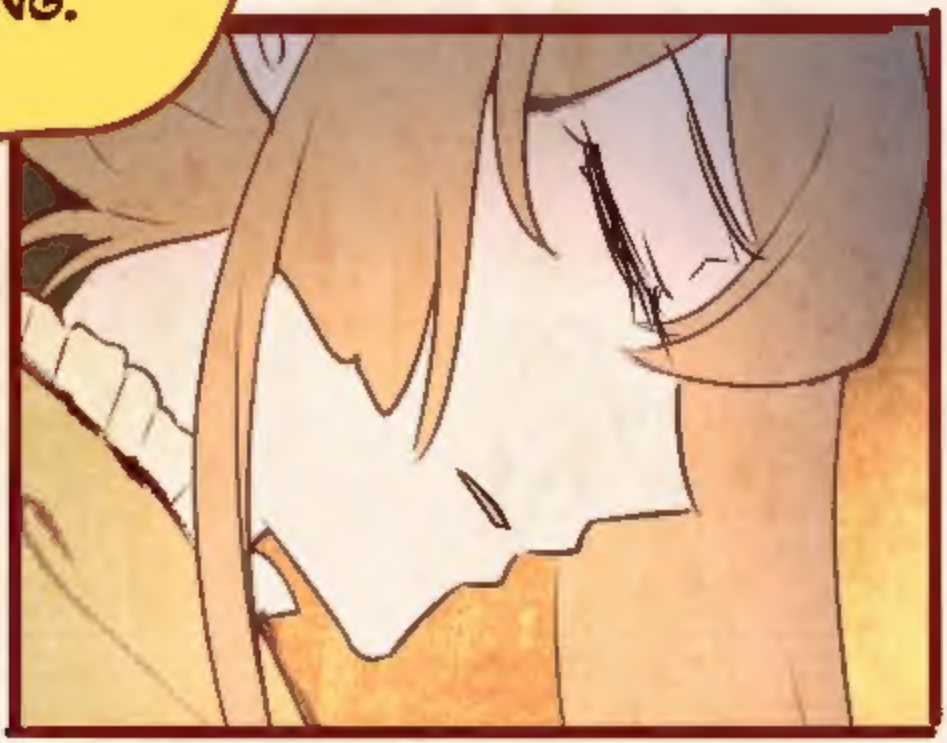

DI-ZANG BODHISATTVA...
YOU COULD HAVE ASCENDED INTO THE HIGHER HEAVENS THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO AND BECOME A LEADING BUDDHA AT THE SIDE OF THE HIGH DIVINITY.

BUT YOUR PERSISTANCE IN SAVING THIS "LIVING PRISON"...

SEPARATED YOU ETERNALLY FROM THE HEAVENS, WHERE YOU BELONG.



I DON'T THINK THE LIVING WORLD SHOULD STAY A "PRISON" FOREVER.

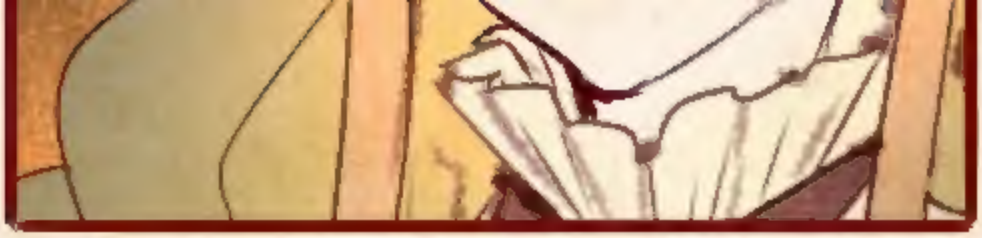
HUMANITY HAS SO MUCH POTENTIAL ...

...TO BECOME MORE THAN JUST PRISONERS OF THE UNIVERSE.

After purifying an Empress of Hell,

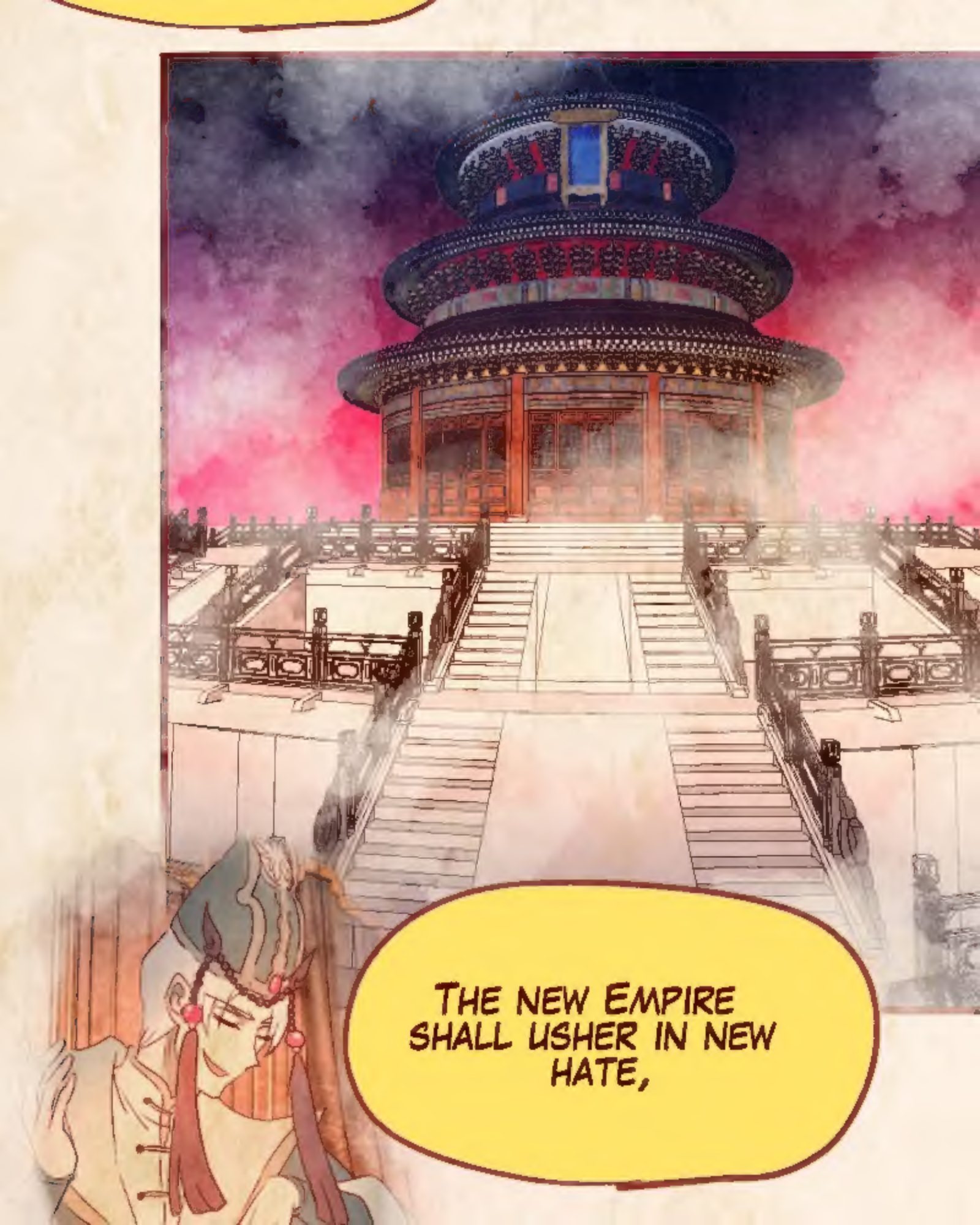
YOU STILL SEE HOPE IN THOSE CORROSSIVE, STUBBORN BEINGS?

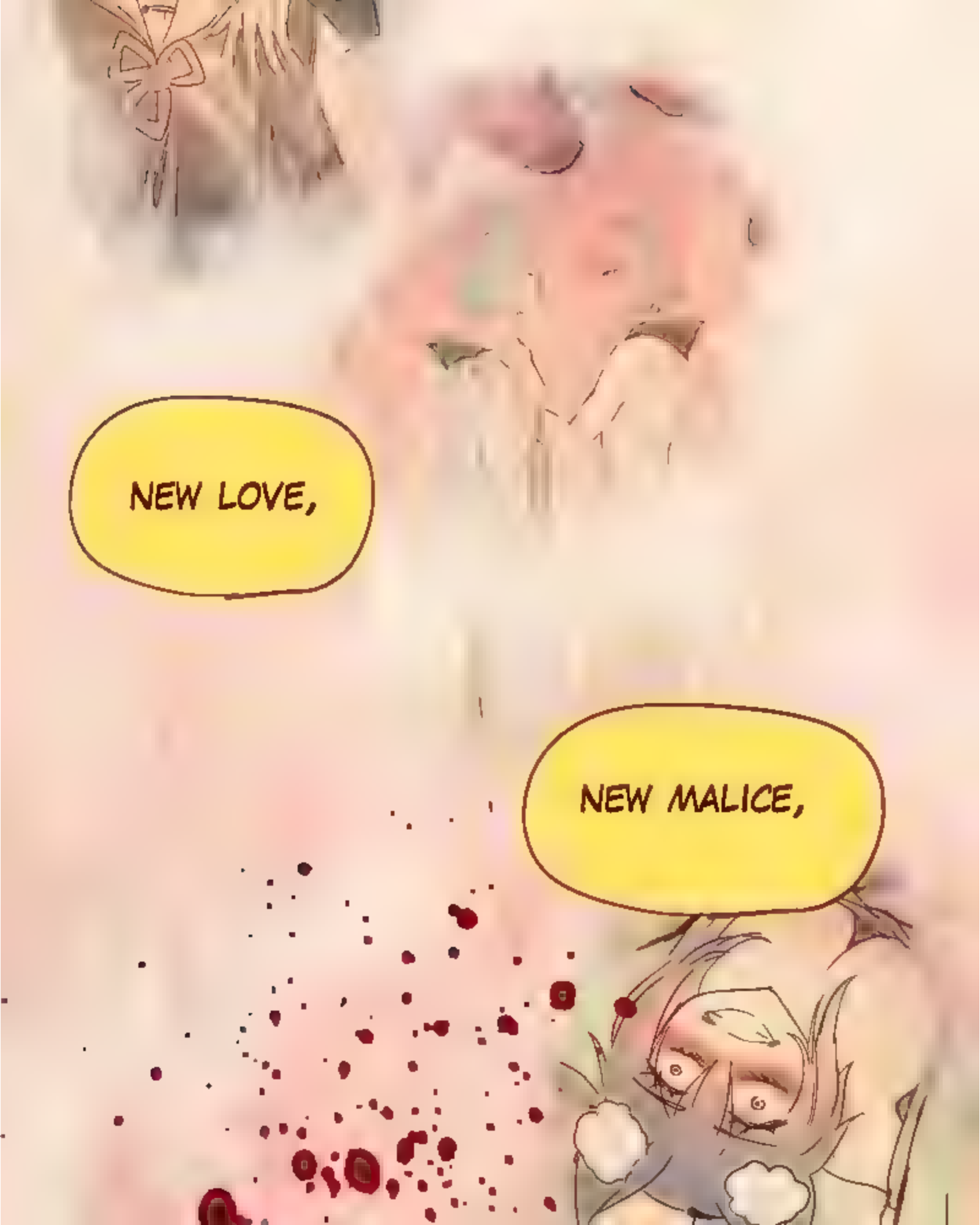
EVEN AFTER ALL THE TRAGEDIES HUMANITY HAS CAUSED IN THEIR REPETITIVE CYCLE OF DESTRUCTION AND REBIRTH...?



The Phantom Paradise you just saved by purifying the evil Empress will continue on into another cycle of corruption and bloodshed.

New participants will get involved with this new cycle.

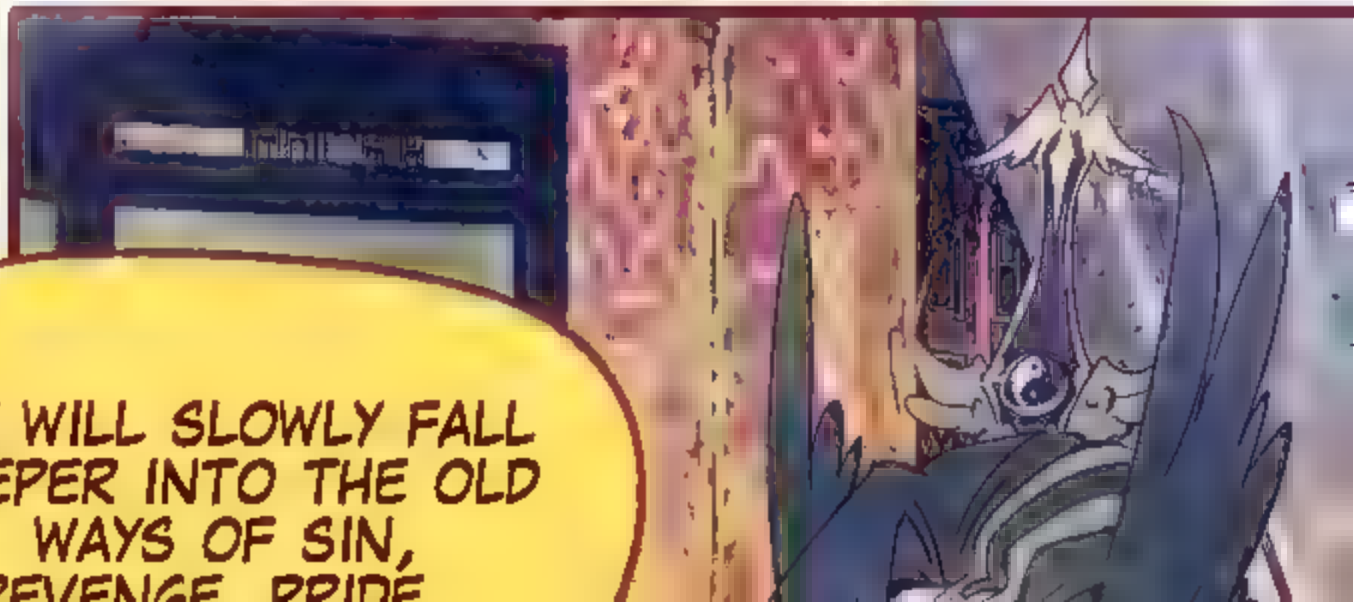

THE NEW EMPIRE SHALL USHER IN NEW HATE,


NEW LOVE,
NEW MALICE,

AND NEW TRAGEDY.
AND THE NEW EMPEROR...

...FROM THIS POINT ON, WILL START OFF AS A JUST AND PASSIONATE RULER...

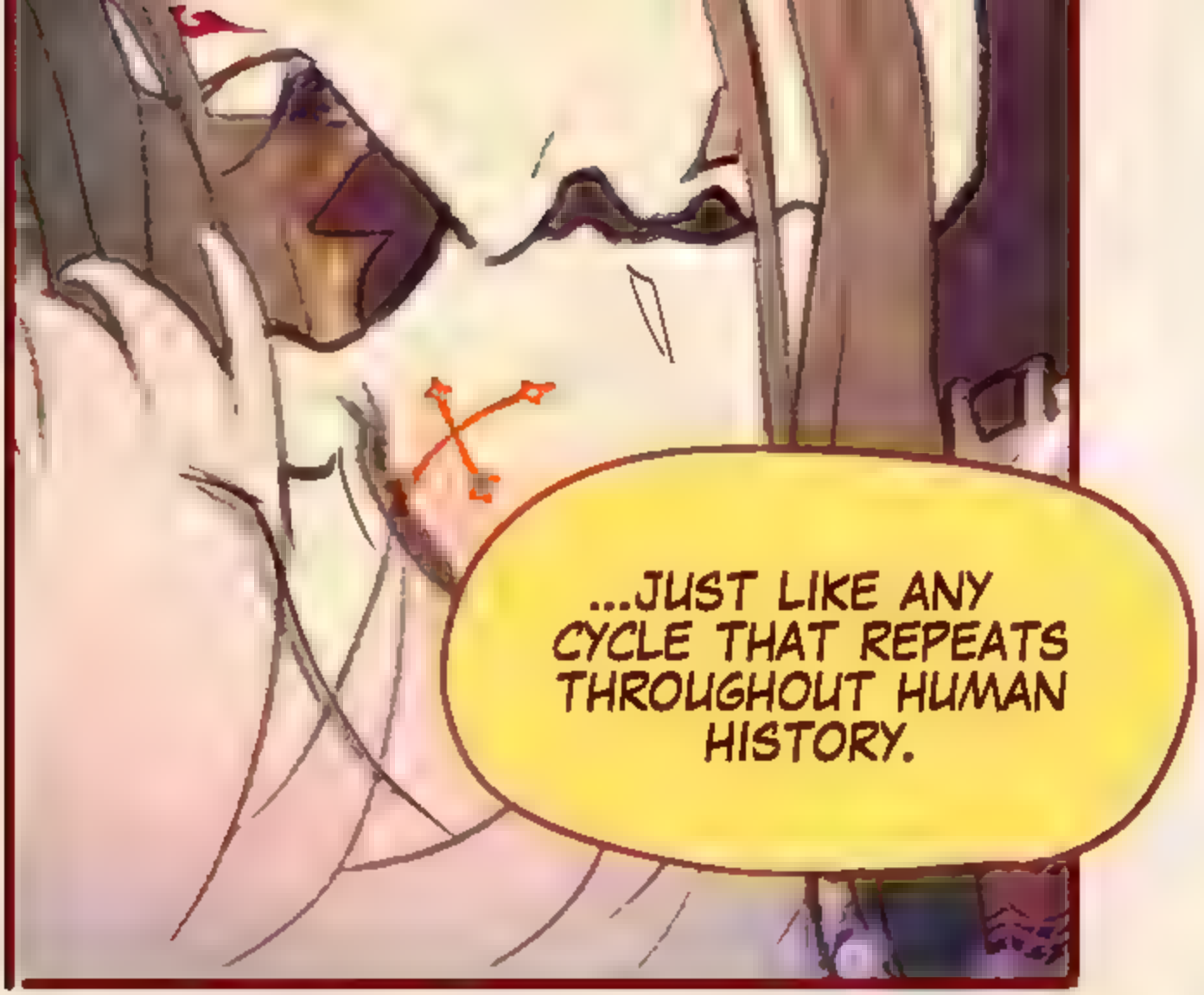
...WISHING TO REALIZE HIS JUSTICE AND LOVE,



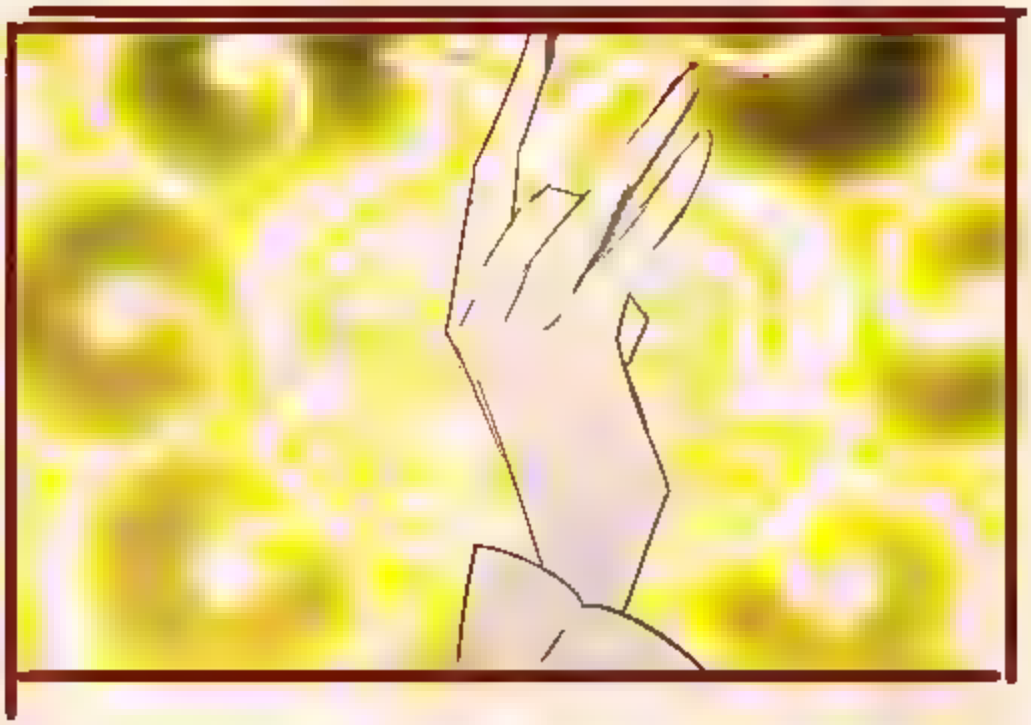
BUT WILL SLOWLY FALL DEEPER INTO THE OLD WAYS OF SIN,

REVENGE, PRIDE...
...AND LUST.

IT WILL HAPPEN JUST LIKE I FORESAW IT...


...JUST LIKE ANY CYCLE THAT REPEATS THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY.

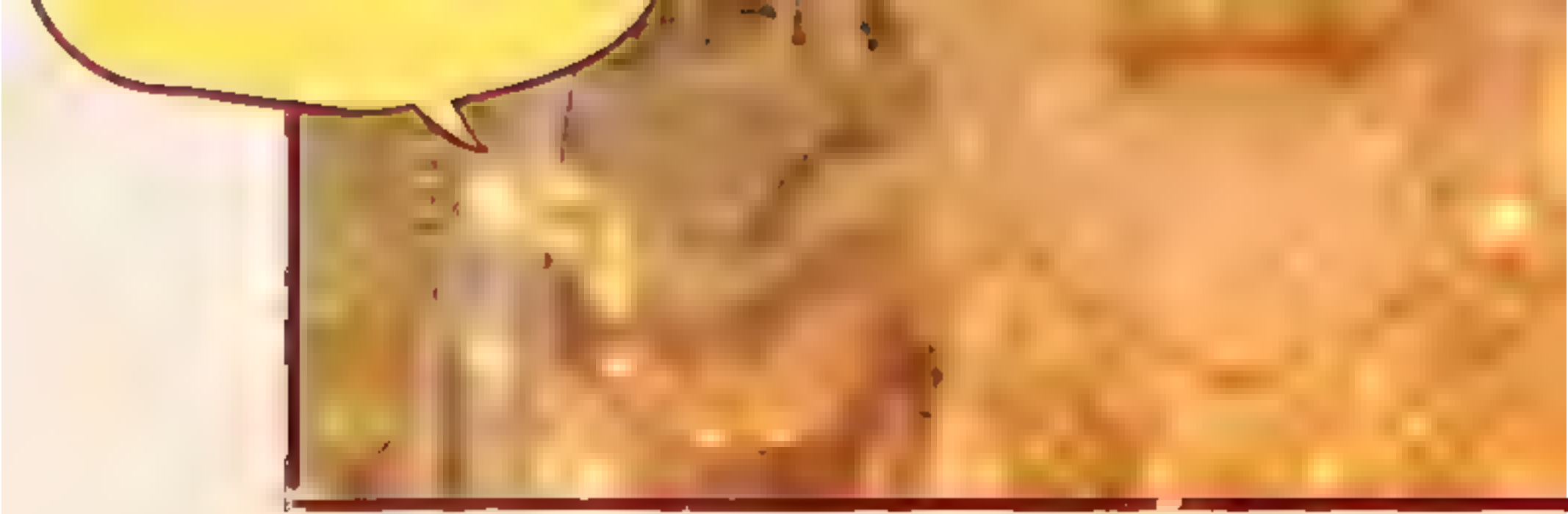
BUT THIS TIME, I AM HERE...
TO STOP THIS CYCLE!!!



AND I WILL SAVE AS MANY SINFUL SOULS AS POSSIBLE-

UNTIL THOSE THAT DESERVE A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION, ARE SAVED!

...



DID YOU KNOW...
YOU WEREN'T THE FIRST SAINT WHO ATTEMPTED TO GUIDE HUMANITY AWAY FROM HELL?

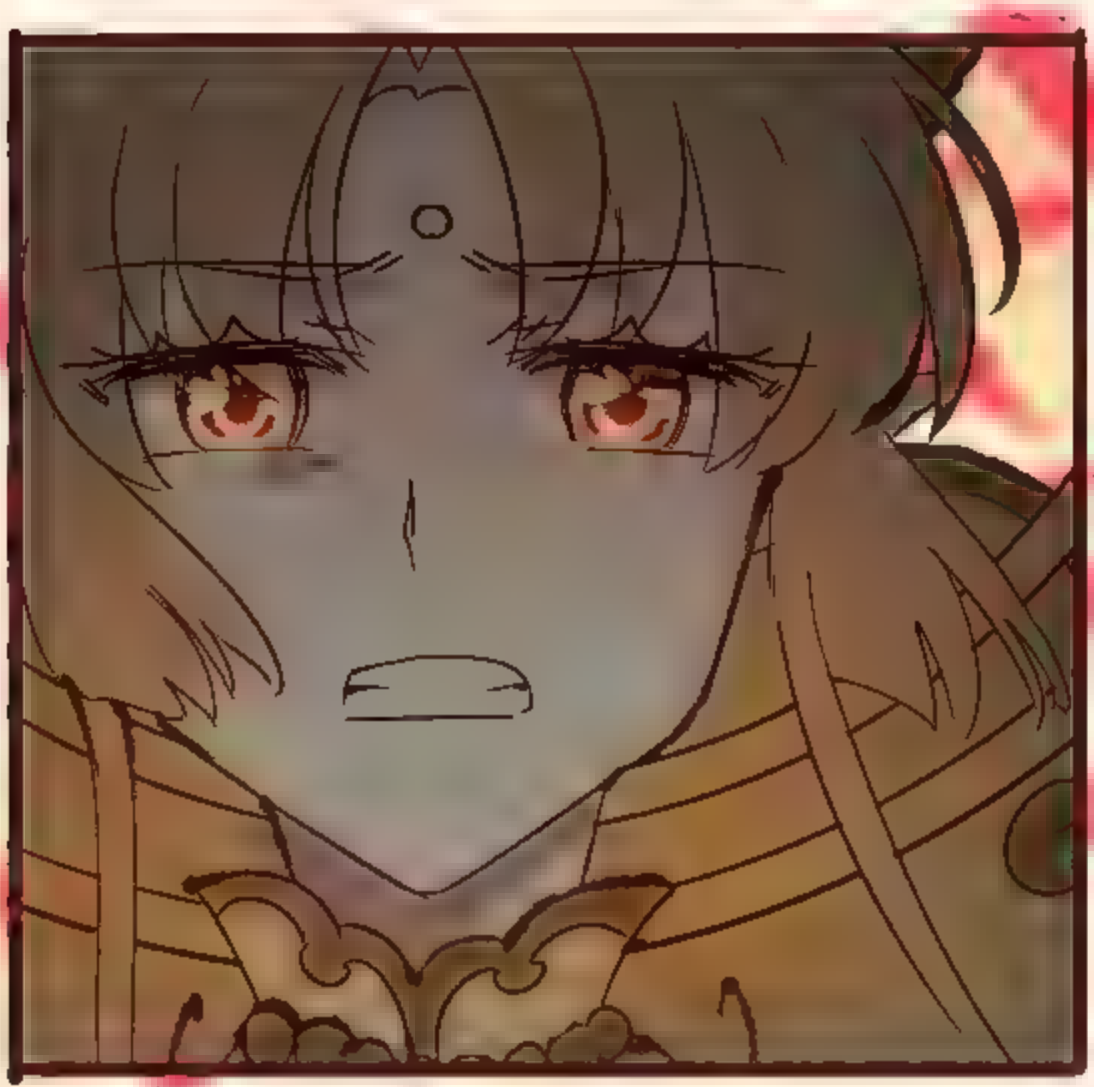
THOSE SAINTS WHO BECAME POPULAR RELIGIOUS FIGURES AMONG HUMAN SOCIETY ARE GOOD EXAMPLES.
THEY HAVE DONE EVERYTHING YOU WOULD AND WILL DO...

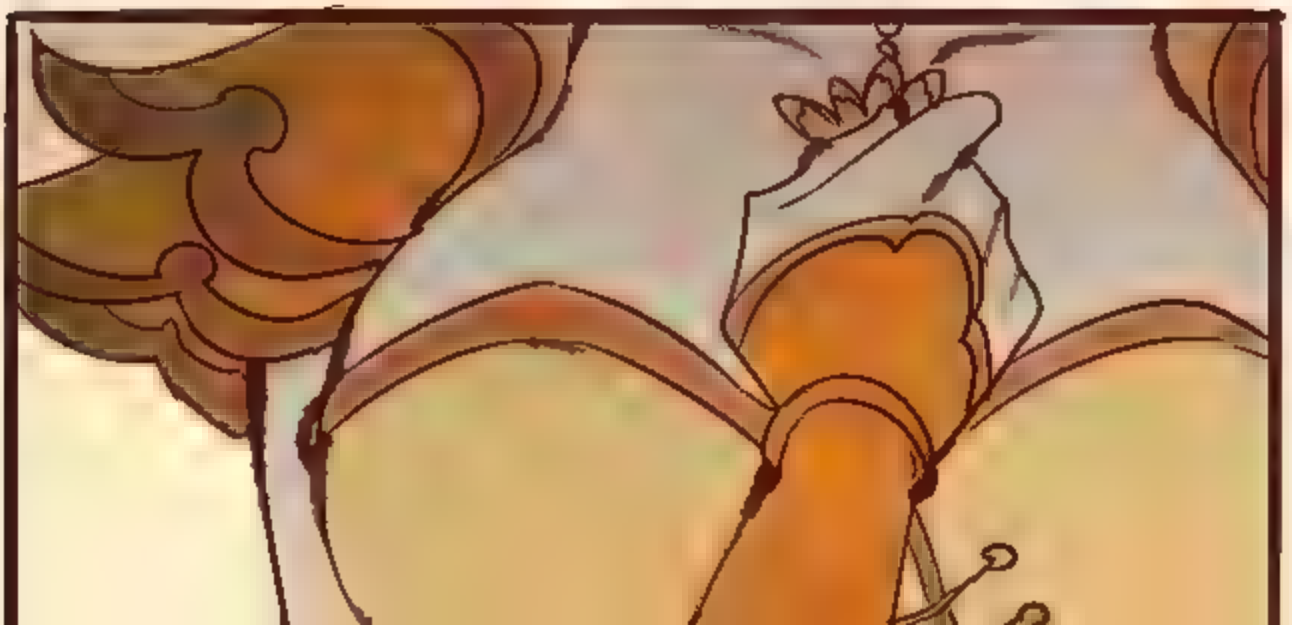
...BE IT SPIRITUAL AND MORAL GUIDANCE, OR EVEN SELF-SACRIFICE.
YET LOOK AT THE RESULTS...

THEY WERE BETRAYED, KILLED,
SLAUGHTERED, JUDGED,
DESPISED BY THE HUMANS
THEY LOVED AND PROTECTED.

THE BLOODSHED ACCOMPANIED BY CHEERS OF THE INCOMPETENT HUMANS...

...YOU'LL ENCOUNTER PLENTY OF IT ON YOUR PATH TO SACRIFICING YOURSELF TO RESSURECT THESE ARROGANT SOULS.



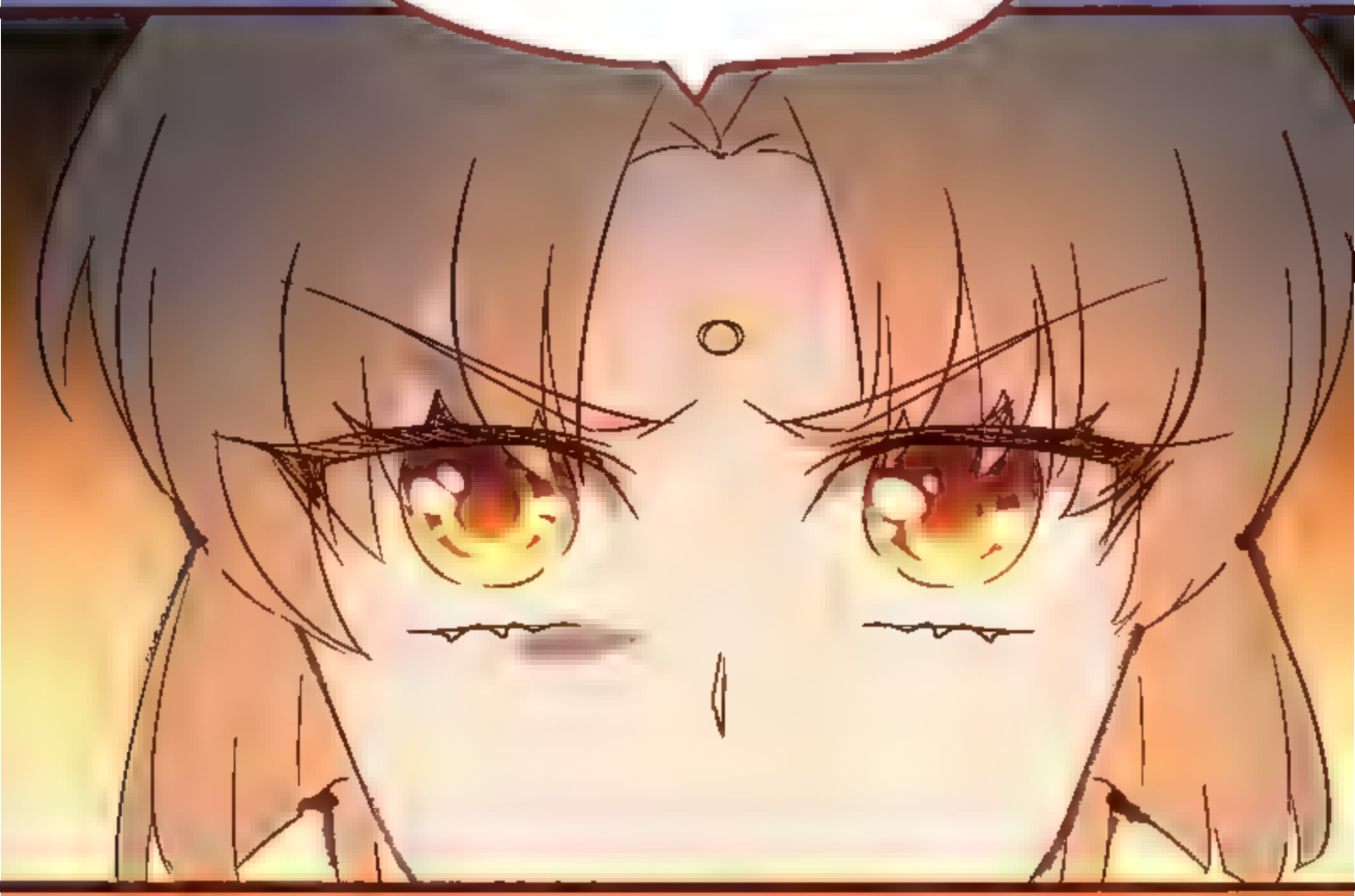


EVEN IF THAT'S WHAT I'M GETTING INTO...

...EVEN IF HUMANS BURN ALL MY TEMPLES AND PUT ME ON TRIAL LIKE MY SENIOR...

I WILL NOT

I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON THE VOW I MADE FOR THEM!

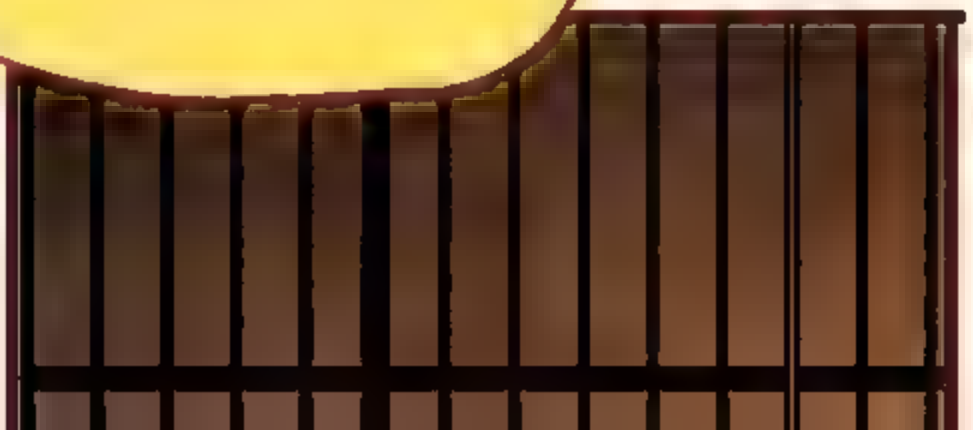


TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR MISSION WILL REQUIRE THOSE HUMANS TO BE

CAPABLE OF CASTING ASIDE
THEIR EGOS AND ARROGANCE...
...AND TO BE
WILLING TO LEARN
AND COMPREHEND
THE "TRUTH" OF THE
LAWS OF THIS UNIVERSE.

RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE PRISONERS- ONLY CAPABLE OF ACKNOWLEDGING WHAT THE "LIVING PRISON" APPEARS TO LOOK LIKE...

...THE PRISON OF THEIR LIMITED REALITY.



THEY INSTINCTIVELY CLOSE THEIR EYES AND AVOID THE TRUTH...

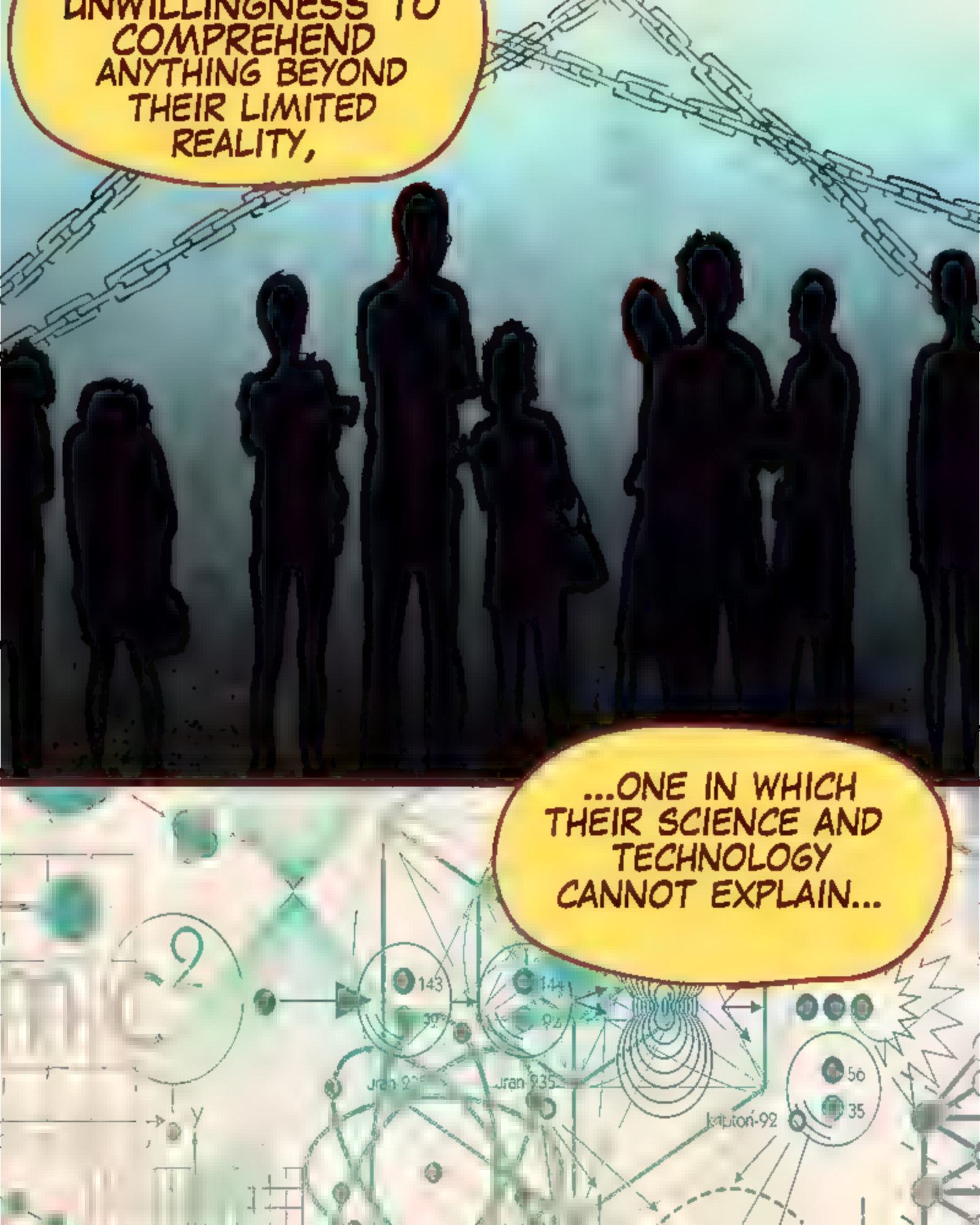
...STICKING WITH WHAT THEY CAN SEE AND COMPREHEND.
88
86
YOUR RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH THE HELL'S MADONNA IS FURTHER PROOF OF THAT.

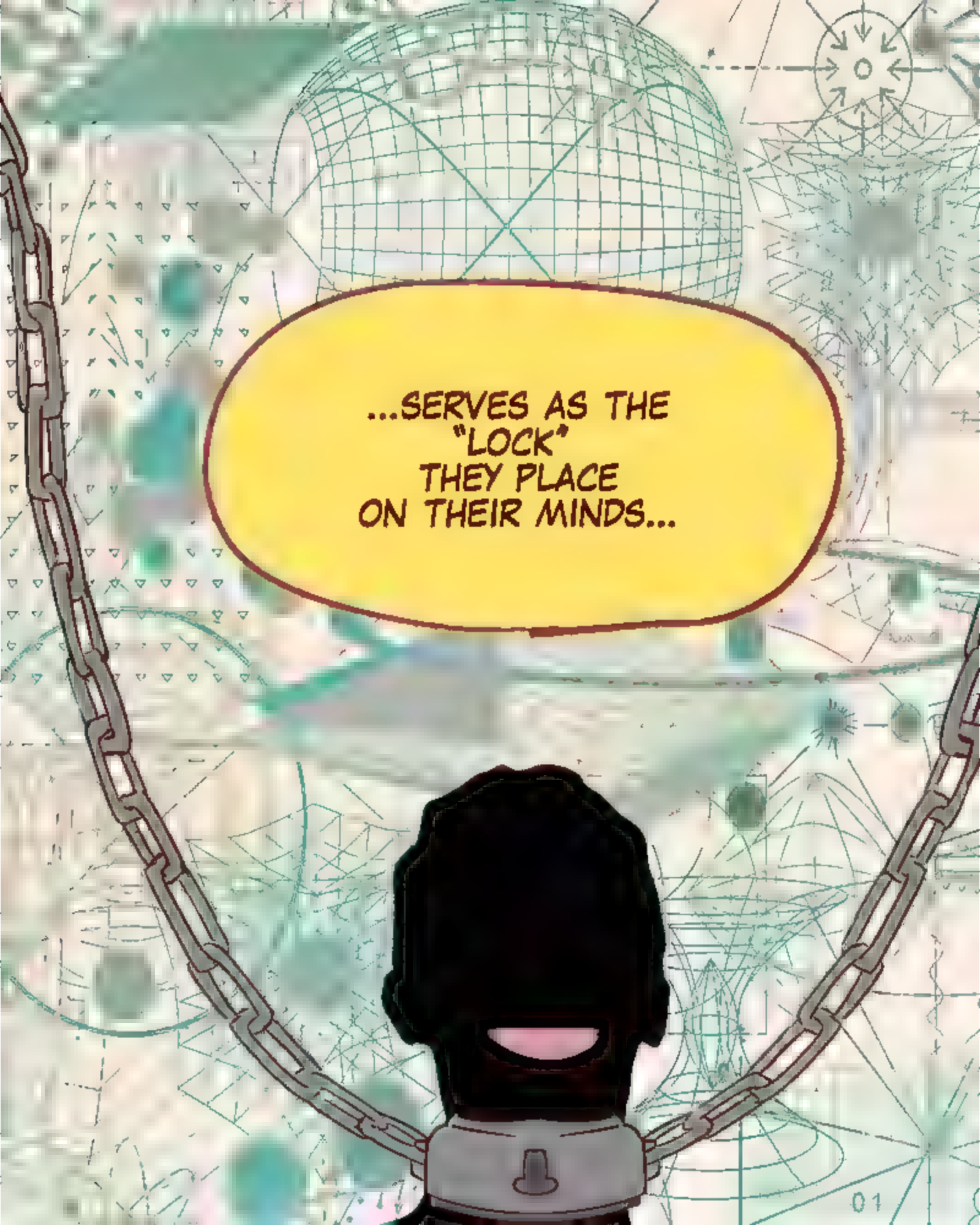
EVEN AS WE SPEAK, IT'S BEING PASSED OFF AS A NATURAL DISASTER...
Breaking News
...OR AN ACT OF

TERRORISM PERPETRATED BY OTHER HUMANS.

THEIR IGNORANCE OF THE TRUTH SERVE AS THEIR "CHAINS."

THEIR


UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPREHEND ANYTHING BEYOND THEIR LIMITED REALITY,
...ONE IN WHICH THEIR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CANNOT EXPLAIN...


...SERVES AS THE "LOCK" THEY PLACE ON THEIR MINDS...

...IMPRISONING THEMSELVES AWAY FROM THE TRUTH AND UNCENSORED REALITY.
AS HUMANS EVOLVE AND ADAPT TO THIS "LIVING PRISON",

THEIR RESOLVE IS STRENGTHENED BY THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS...
...AND MORE AND MORE NEGLECT GOD,

CHOOSING TO DRIVE THEMSELVES FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM ENLIGHTENMENT.

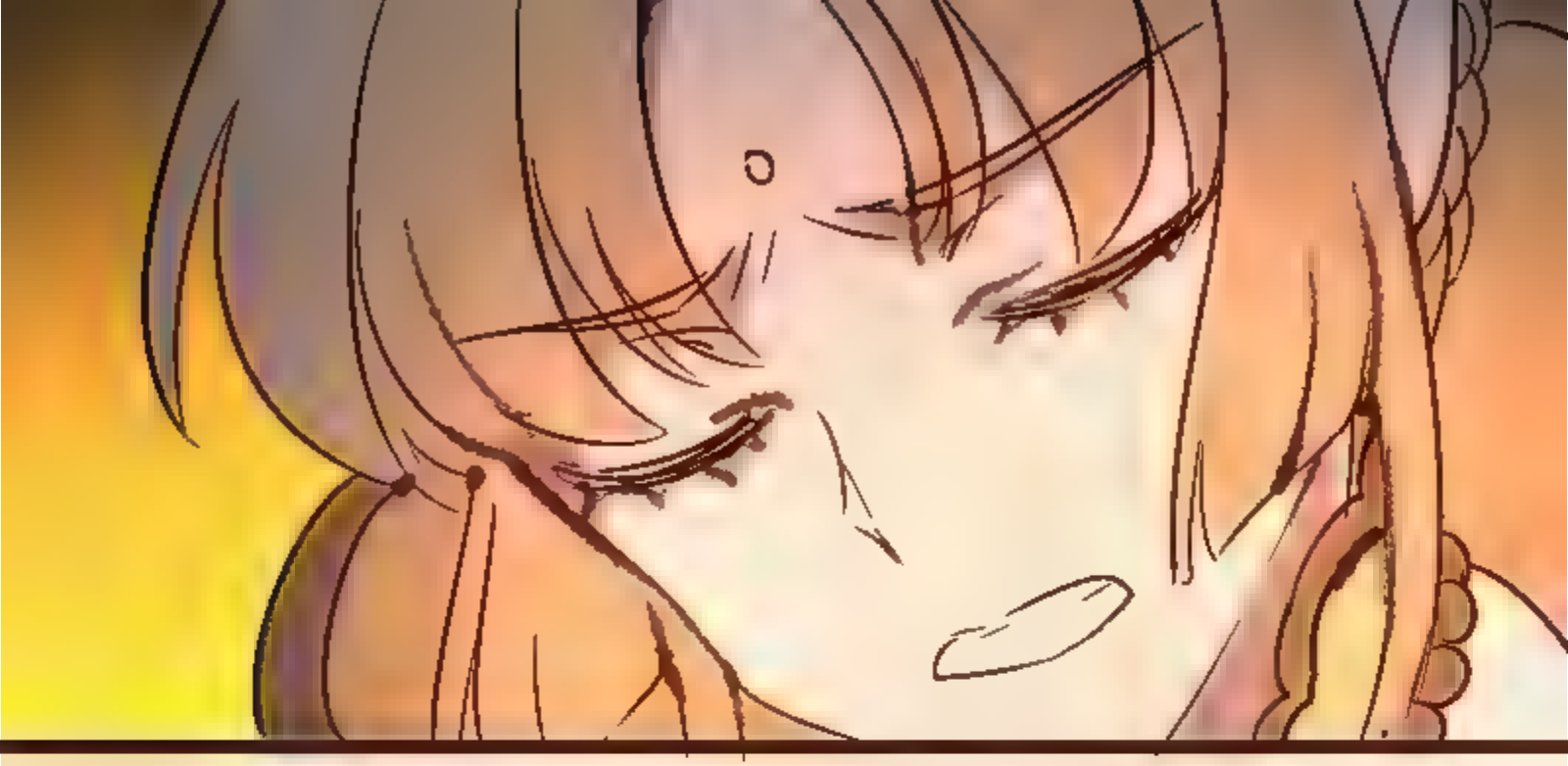
But humans weren't like this in the past!

THEY USED TO BE SPIRITUALLY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HEAVENS!
IN PREHISTORIC TIMES...

...HUMANS, SPIRITS, GODS, AND ANGELS...
...EXISTED TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY!
THOUGH HUMANS STRAYED FROM THE PATH

AND FOCUSED ON MATERIALISTIC VALUES...
...IT'S OUR DUTY AS DIVINITIES TO HELP THEM,

RATHER THAN TO STAND BY AND CONDEMN THEM ALL TO THEIR FATE!
ON COUNTLESS OCCASIONS...

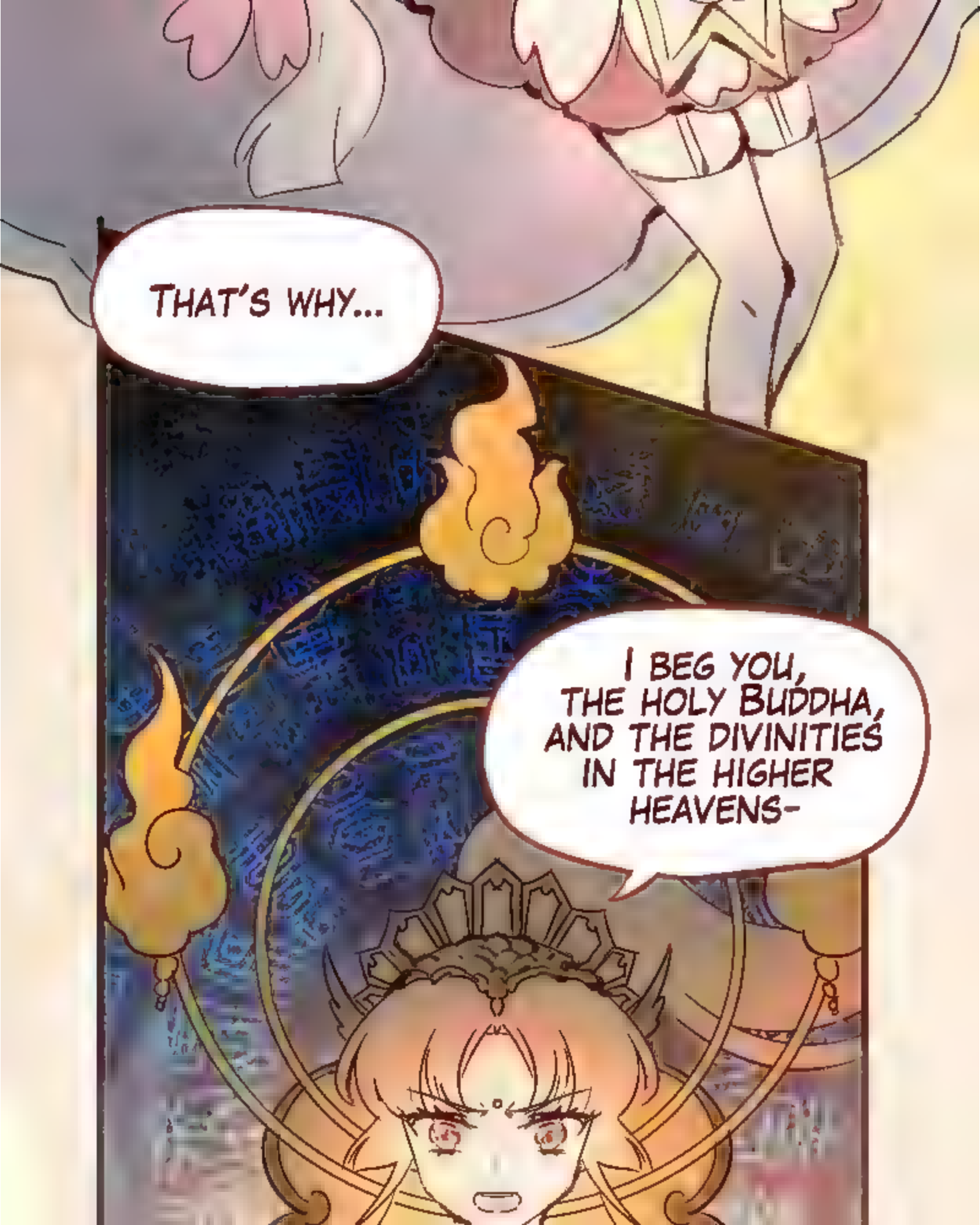


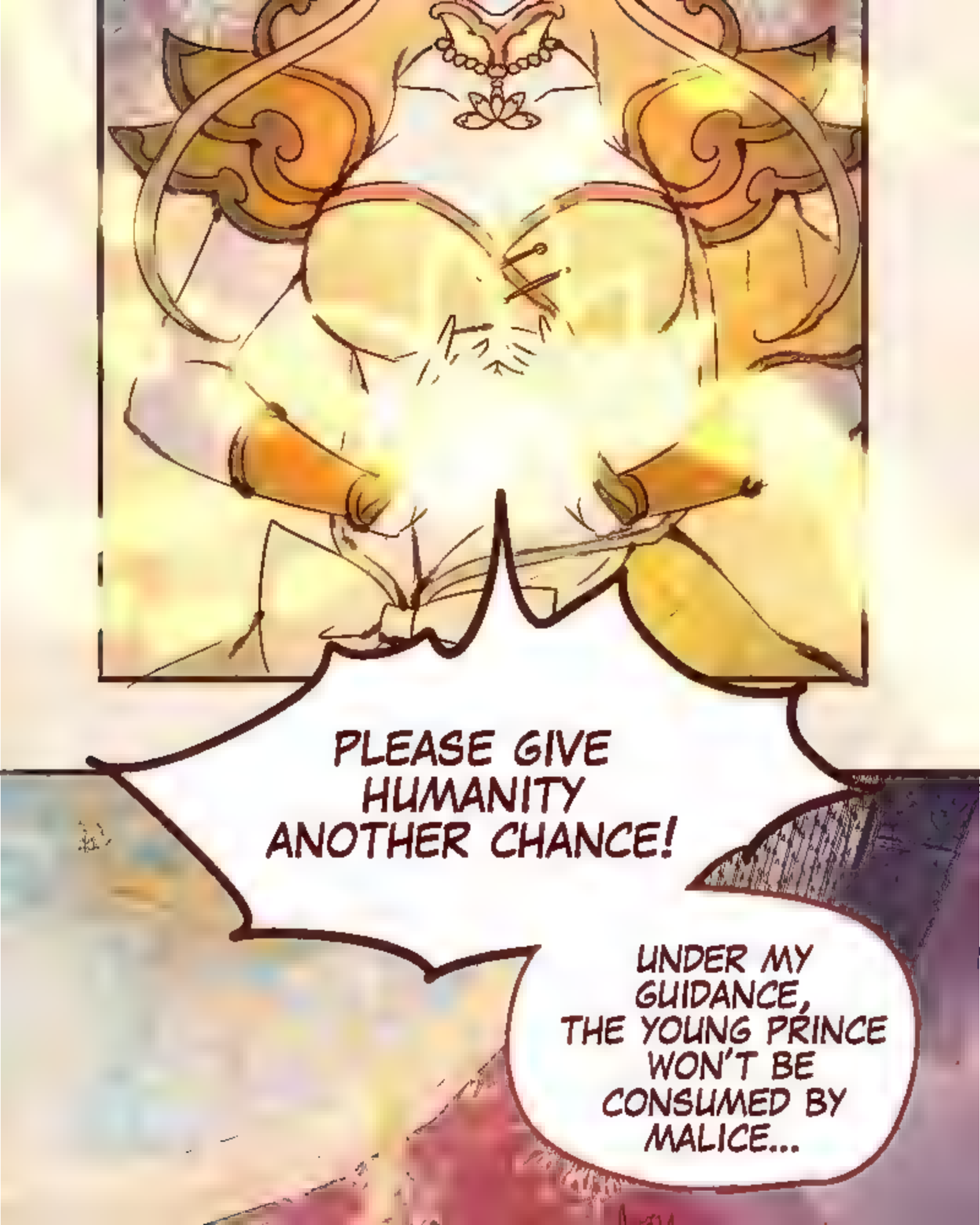
...I'VE WITNESSED THE SPARK OF JUSTICE AND PURITY AMONG THE MANY...

...IN THOSE DEAREST HUMANS I'VE MET AND BECOME FRIENDS WITH.
IF ONLY...

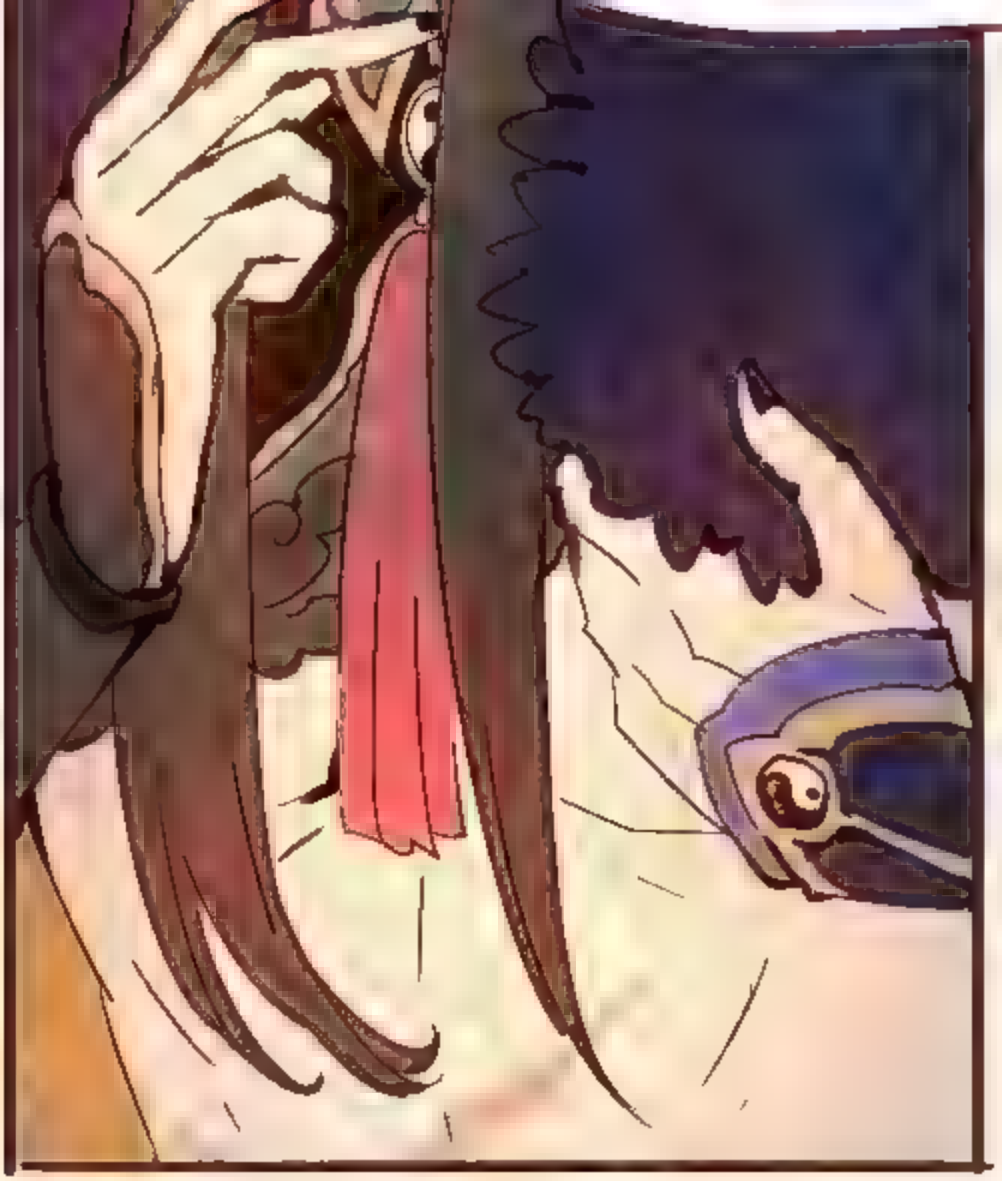
...THE STRENGTH OF THEIR LOVE AND SENSE OF JUSTICE COULD AWAKEN THEIR INNER SPIRITUALITY...
...AND GUIDE THEM TO THE RIGHT PATH.

THEN HUMAN SOCIETY WOULDN'T BE DRENCHED IN AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF WAR AND CHAOS.


THAT'S WHY...
I BEG YOU, THE HOLY BUDDHA, AND THE DIVINITIES IN THE HIGHER HEAVENS-


PLEASE GIVE HUMANITY ANOTHER CHANCE!
UNDER MY GUIDANCE, THE YOUNG PRINCE WON'T BE CONSUMED BY MALICE...

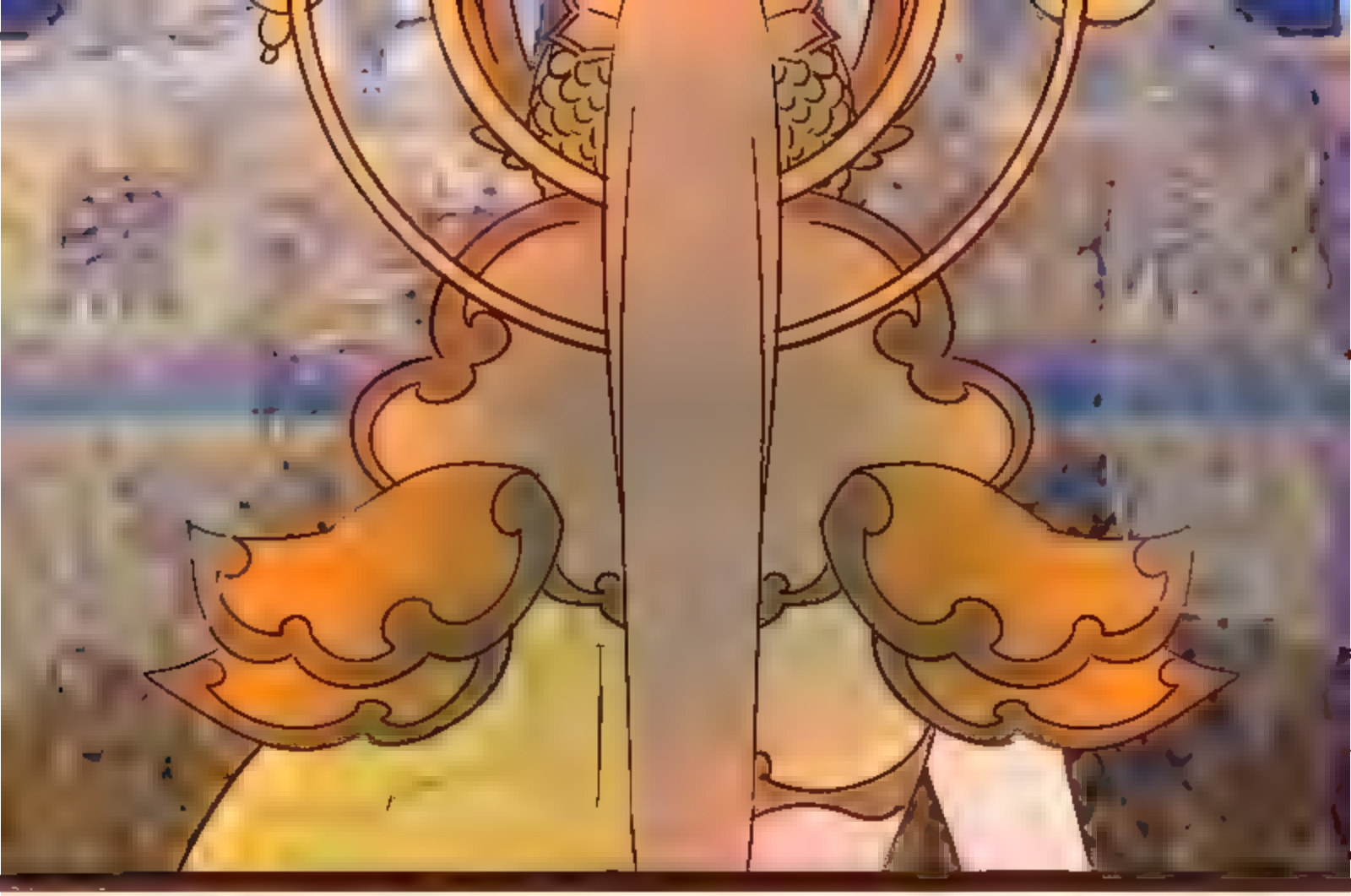
...HE WILL LEARN TO SHARE THE LOVE AND RESPONSIBILITY HE HAS FOR HIS DEAREST ONE...
...WITH THE REST OF HELL AND HUMANITY.

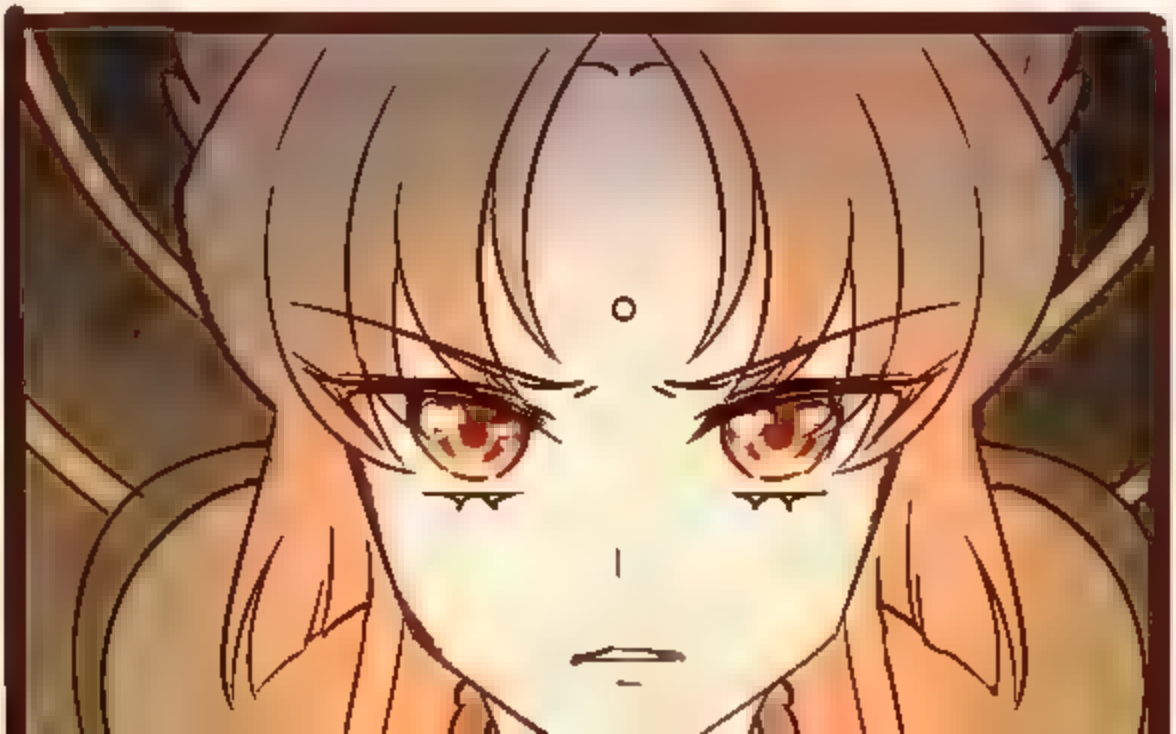


HE WILL BE THE KEY FOR HUMANITY TO AVOID THE FINAL JUDGEMENT.

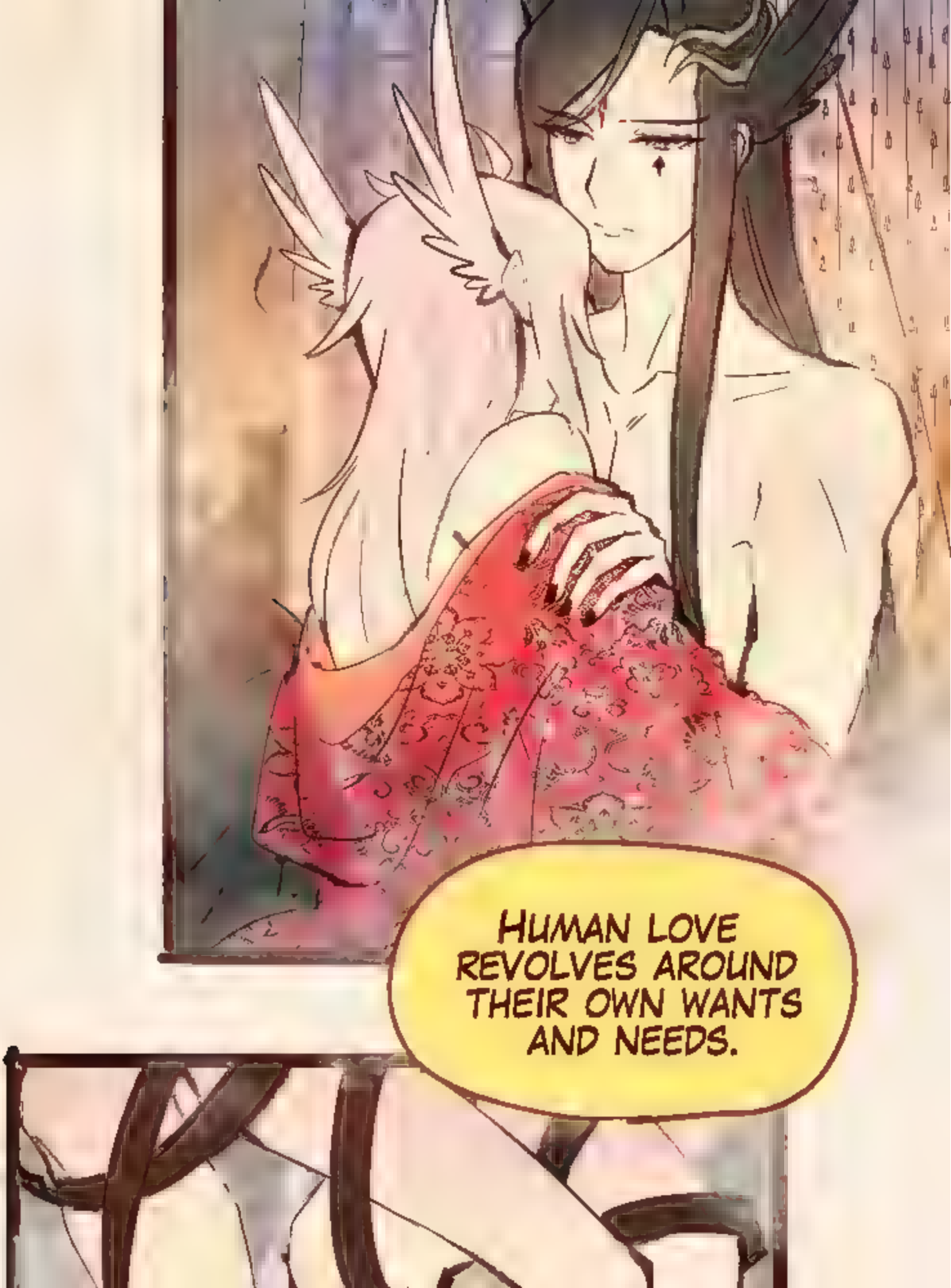
...
YOU'VE WITNESSED THE BIRTH AND RUIN OF COUNTLESS EMPIRES.

TELL ME, AT ANY TIME IN THAT PROCESS...
...DID HUMANITY ASCEND TO A HIGHER SPIRITUALITY?
OR HAVE THEY FALLEN DEEPER INTO THE ABYSS OF SIN AND DESIRE?





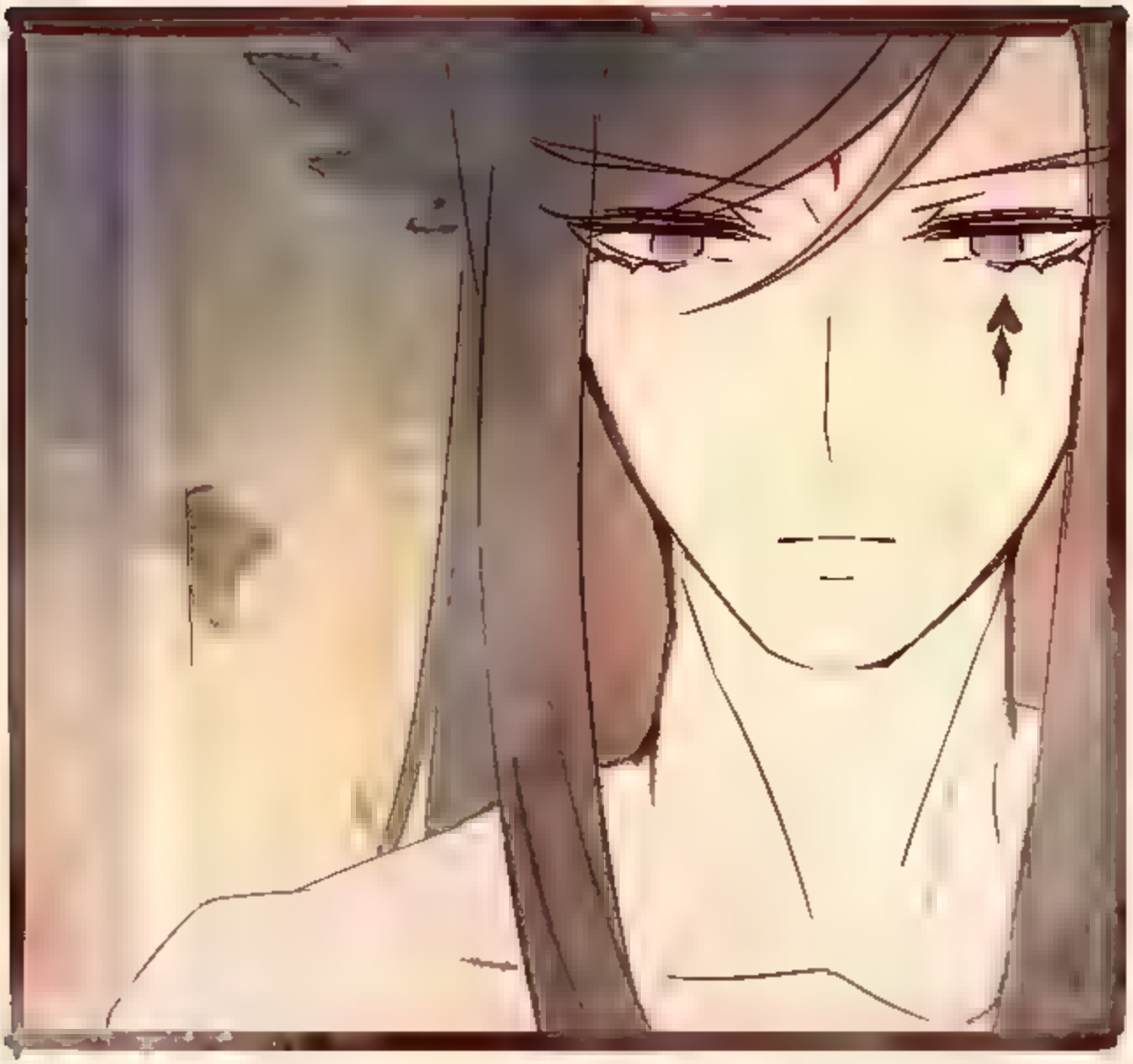
...
MOST HUMANS CANNOT LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

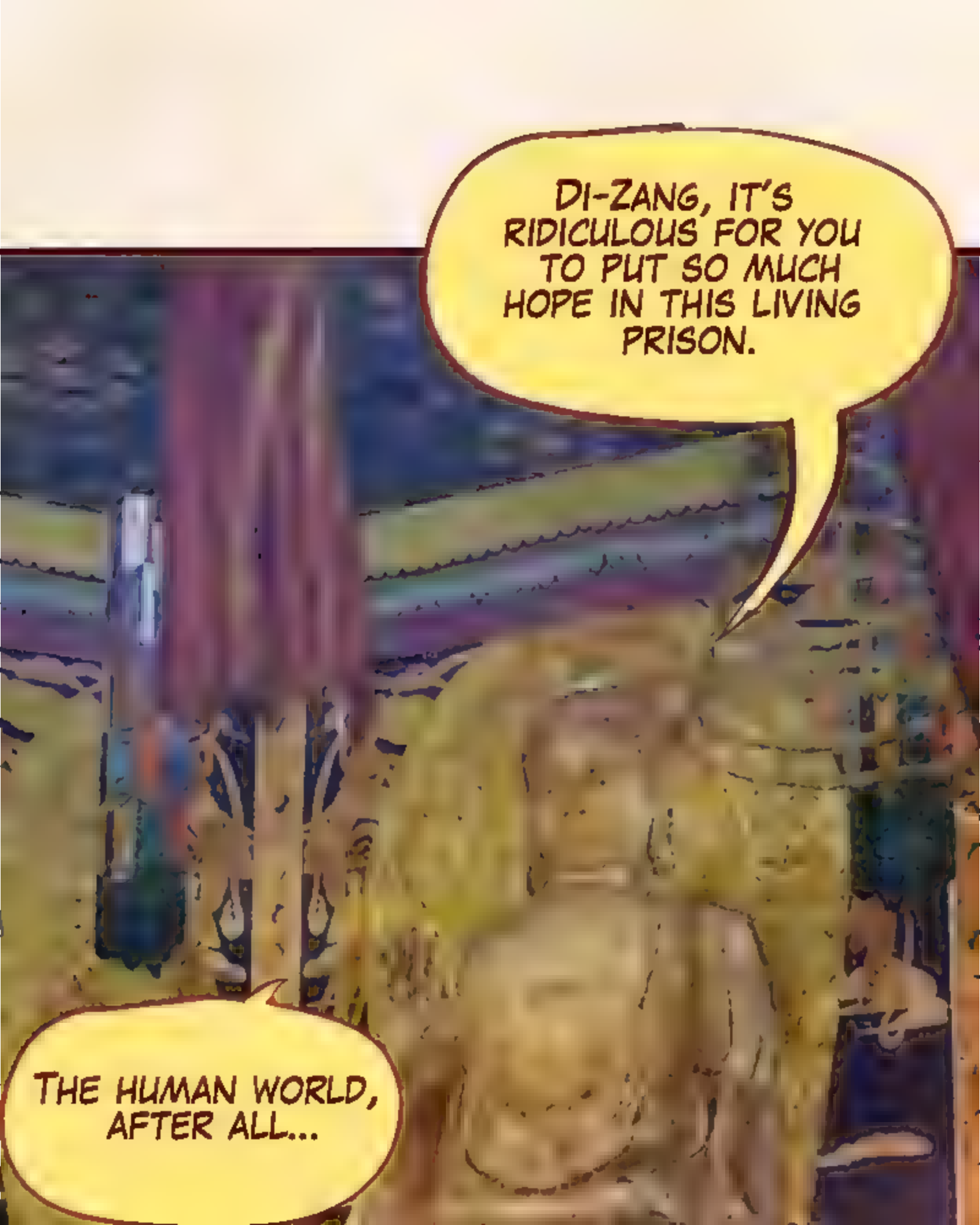

HUMAN LOVE REVOLVES AROUND THEIR OWN WANTS AND NEEDS.

THAT IS THE MOTIVATION THAT DRIVES HUMANS TO SIN, TO DESIRE, AND TO KILL...

...IN EXCHANGE
TO PROTECT THE

THINGS THEY VALUE.




DI-ZANG, IT'S RIDICULOUS FOR YOU TO PUT SO MUCH HOPE IN THIS LIVING PRISON.
THE HUMAN WORLD, AFTER ALL...

THE BEINGS IN THIS REALITY ARE LIKE MAGGOTS, CONSUMING EACH OTHER IN AN ENDLESS CYCLE OF WAR

AND CHAOS...
...UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
THAT IS WHY WE MUST END THEM BEFORE PHANTOM PARADISE UNIFIES WITH THE LIVING WORLD...

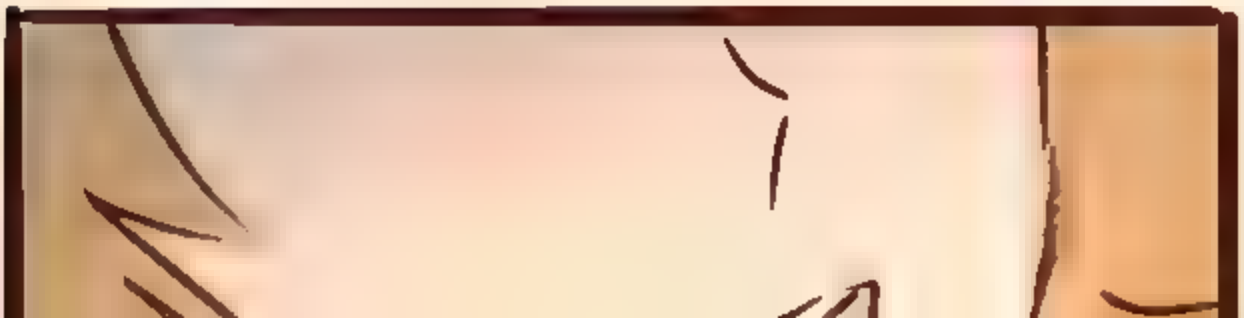
...AND SPREADS ITS CORRUPTION AND DESTRUCTION BEFORE THE GATES OF HEAVEN.

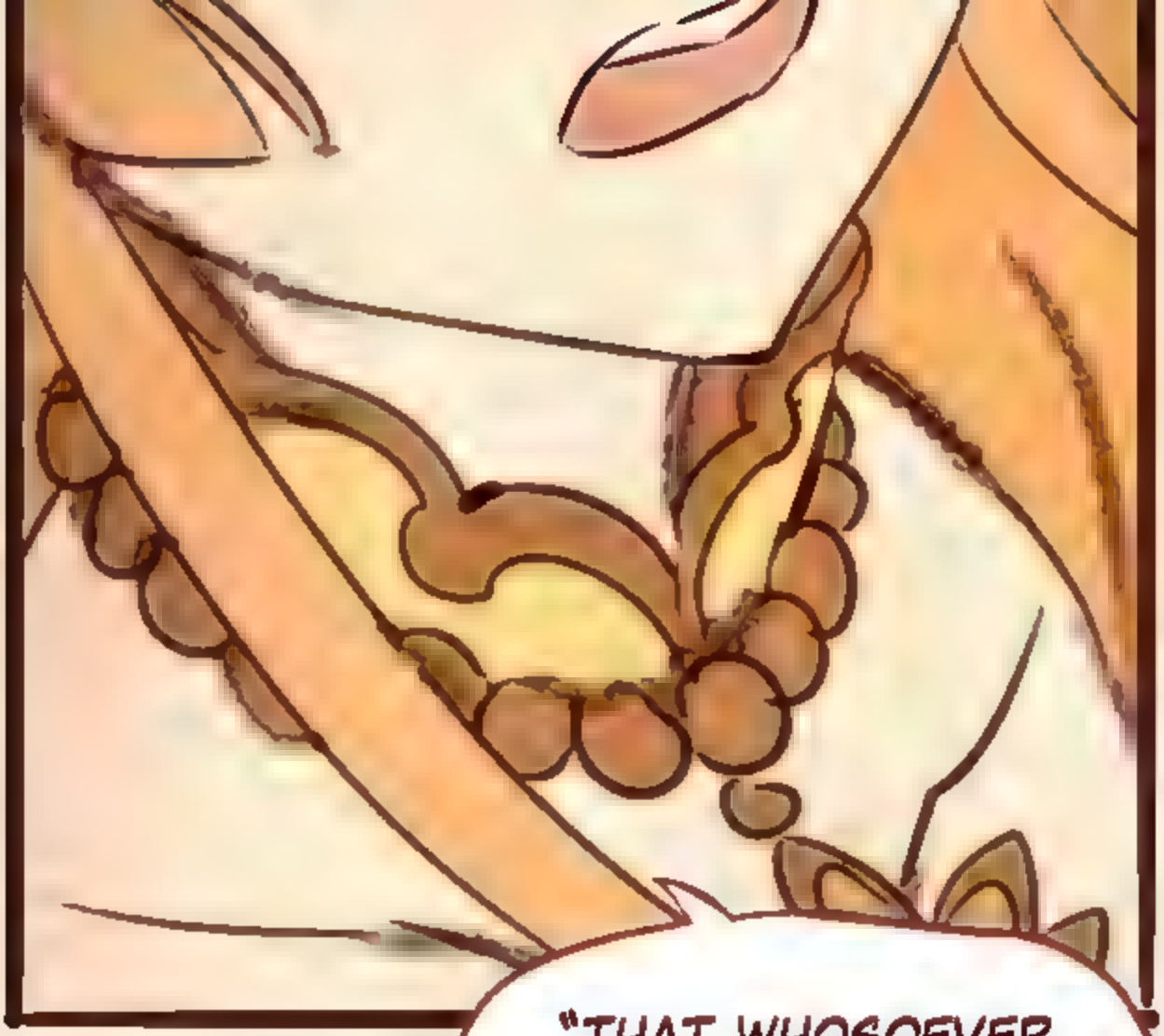
IT IS PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BEING A HIGHER DIVINITY...

...TO ELIMINATE SINFUL BEINGS FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNIVERSE.

"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,"

"THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,"

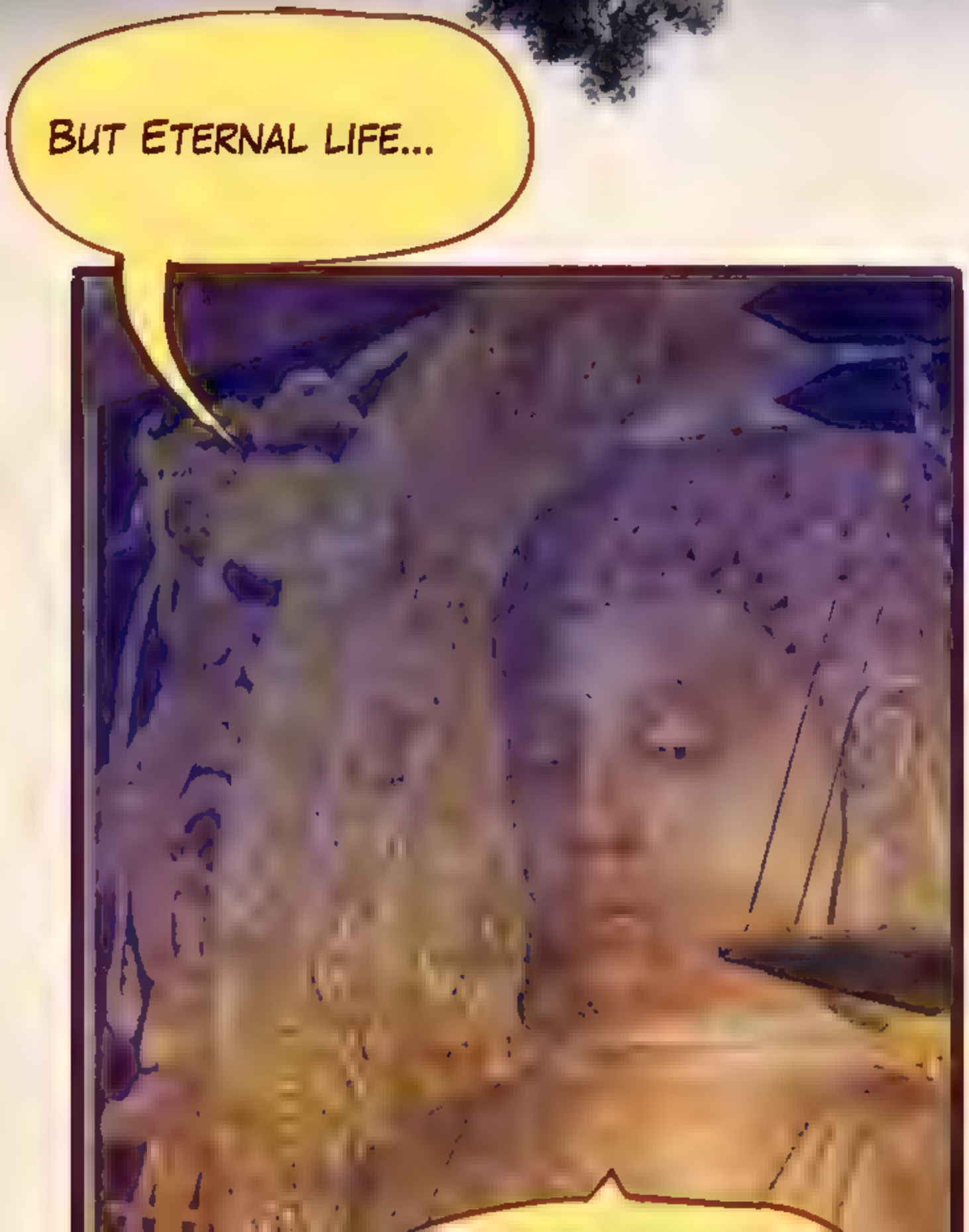


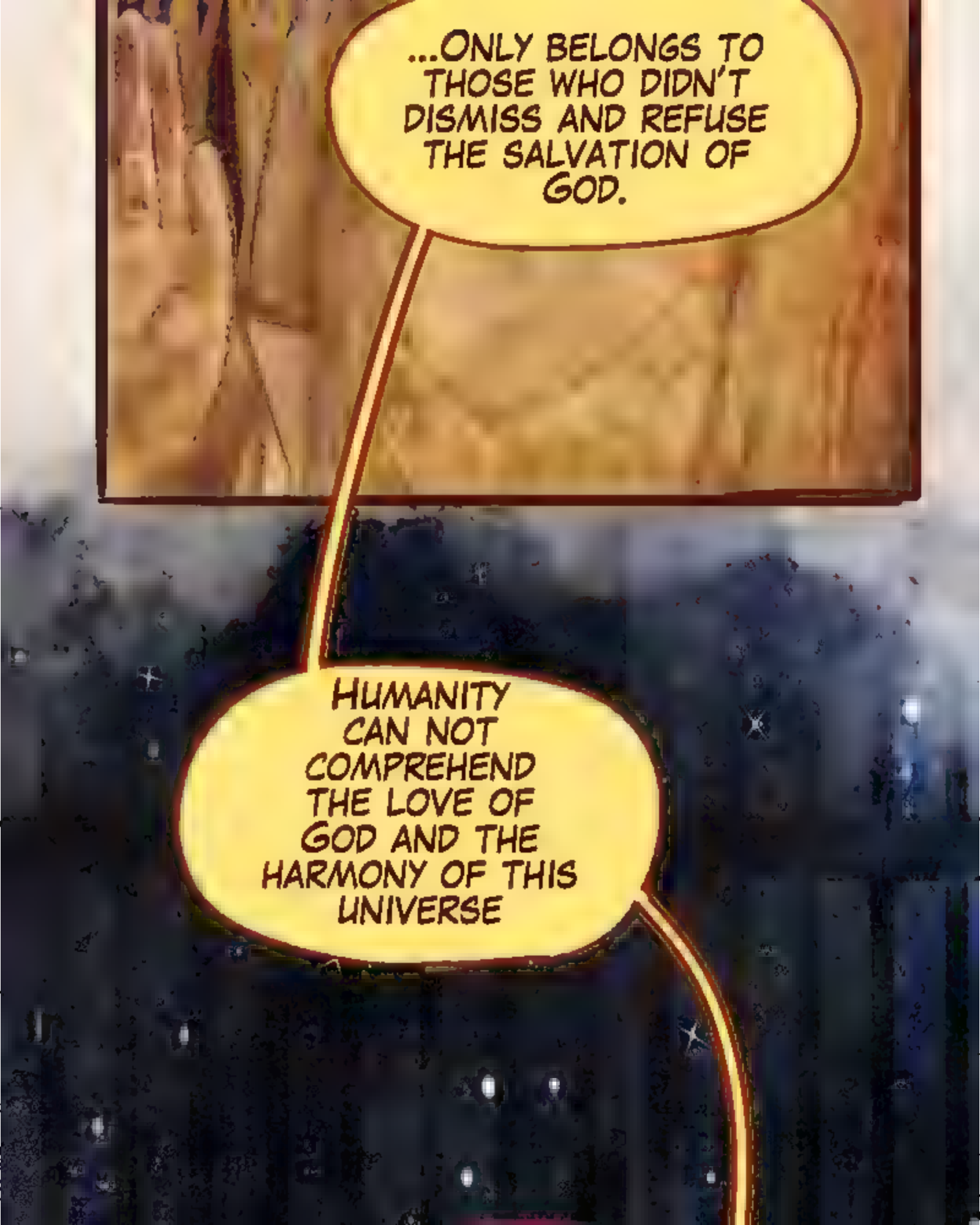


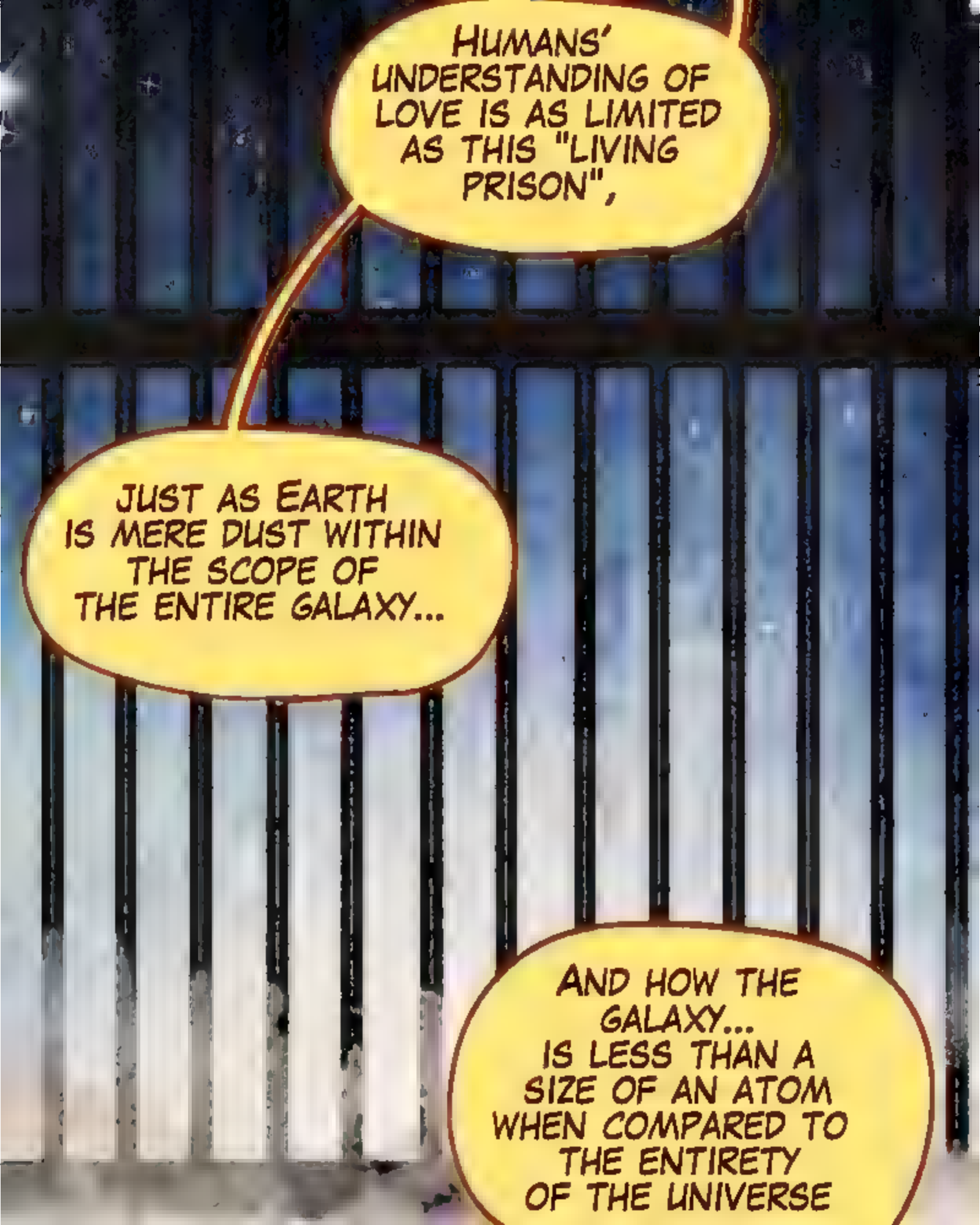
"THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH,"

"BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, NOT ALL SINNERS ARE BEYOND REDEMPTION.
IF THEY WERE, GOD WOULD NEVER HAVE GRANTED THEM THE CHANCE OF ETERNAL LIFE WITH HIS FORESIGHT.

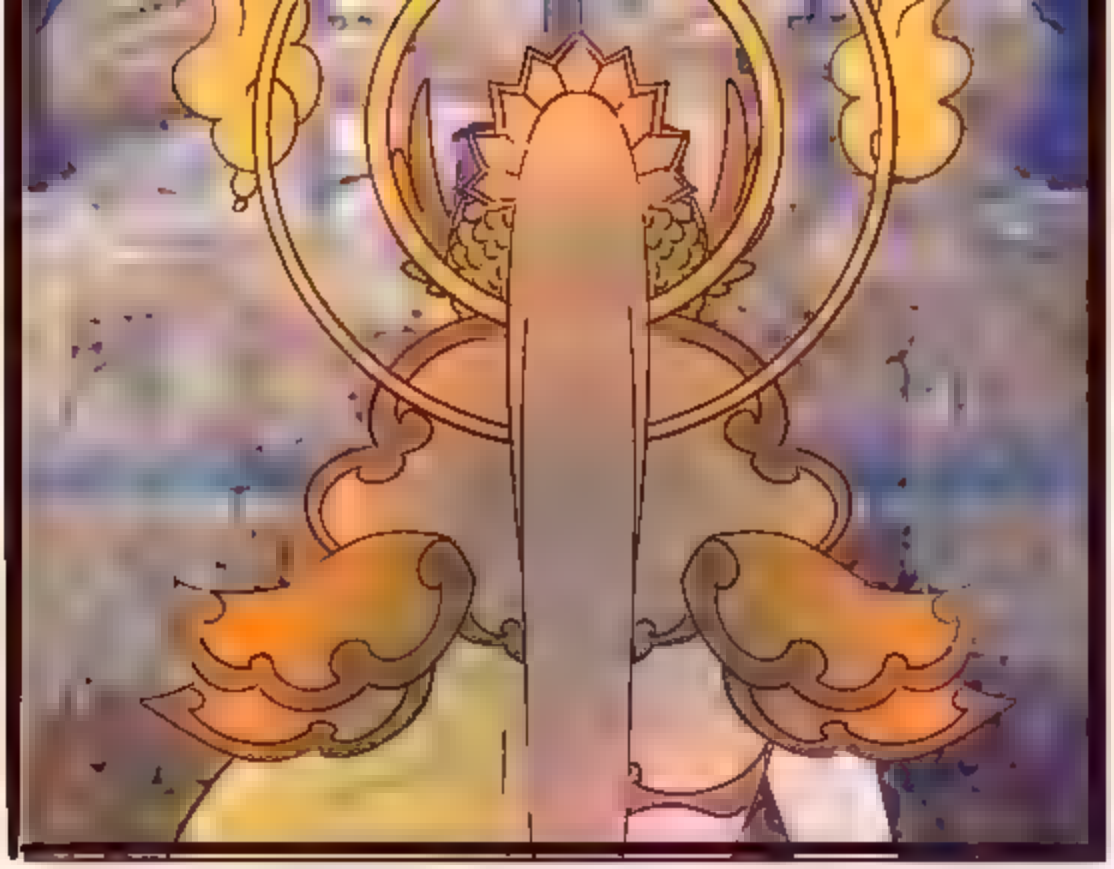

But Eternal life...


...ONLY BELONGS TO THOSE WHO DIDN'T DISMISS AND REFUSE THE SALVATION OF GOD.
HUMANITY CAN NOT COMPREHEND THE LOVE OF GOD AND THE HARMONY OF THIS UNIVERSE


HUMANS' UNDERSTANDING OF LOVE IS AS LIMITED AS THIS "LIVING PRISON",
JUST AS EARTH IS MERE DUST WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE ENTIRE GALAXY...
AND HOW THE GALAXY... IS LESS THAN A SIZE OF AN ATOM WHEN COMPARED TO THE ENTIRETY OF THE UNIVERSE

...

LET ME SHOW
YOU THE FUTURE,
THE END OF YOUR IDEALS.



THE COSMOS
...

THAT GLOWING BLUE PLANET...

IT'S EARTH..

HOST OF THE "LIVING PRISON" FOR HUMANITY.

IT'S GRUADUALLY ROTTING...

NOTHING CAN LAST ETERNALLY IN THIS TINY, NARROW WORLD THAT HUMANS BIND THEMSELVES TO.

WHETHER IT'S LOVE,
JUSTICE,
PEACE,
MORALITY,
PROSPERITY,

EVENTUALLY EVERYTHING WILL BE CONSUMED AND DESTROYED BY HUMANITY.

ONLY ONE THING WILL REMAIN IN THE HUMAN WORLD
-
AND THAT IS-

SIN.

Author's Note

Phantom Paradise is not based on soley Christianity and Buddhism, nor it is a mixture of both.

Phantom Paradise consists the entire universe, all religions co-exist just like the real world.

I am trying to portray for the truths and cycle of the universe and humanity as a whole, rather than focusing only on religious aspects.

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